

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
DOWNLOADING A COMPUTER FILE FROM A SOURCE COMPUTER TO A
TARGET COMPUTER

5 A source computer 2 having a copy of a computer file that it is desired to download to
a plurality of target computers issues broadcast messages via a computer network linked to
those target computers. The broadcast messages indicate the availability of the computer file
for download and include a download qualifying parameter. The download qualifying
parameter is used by receiving target computers to determine whether or not they qualify to
10 attempt a download from the source computer in response to the received broadcast message.
Only those target computers that do qualify attempt a download. The source computer
monitors how many target computers make a download attempt in response to a particular
broadcast message and adjusts the download qualifying parameters in subsequent broadcast
messages so that the target computers progressively download the new computer file without
15 overloading the source computer.

[Figure 6]